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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

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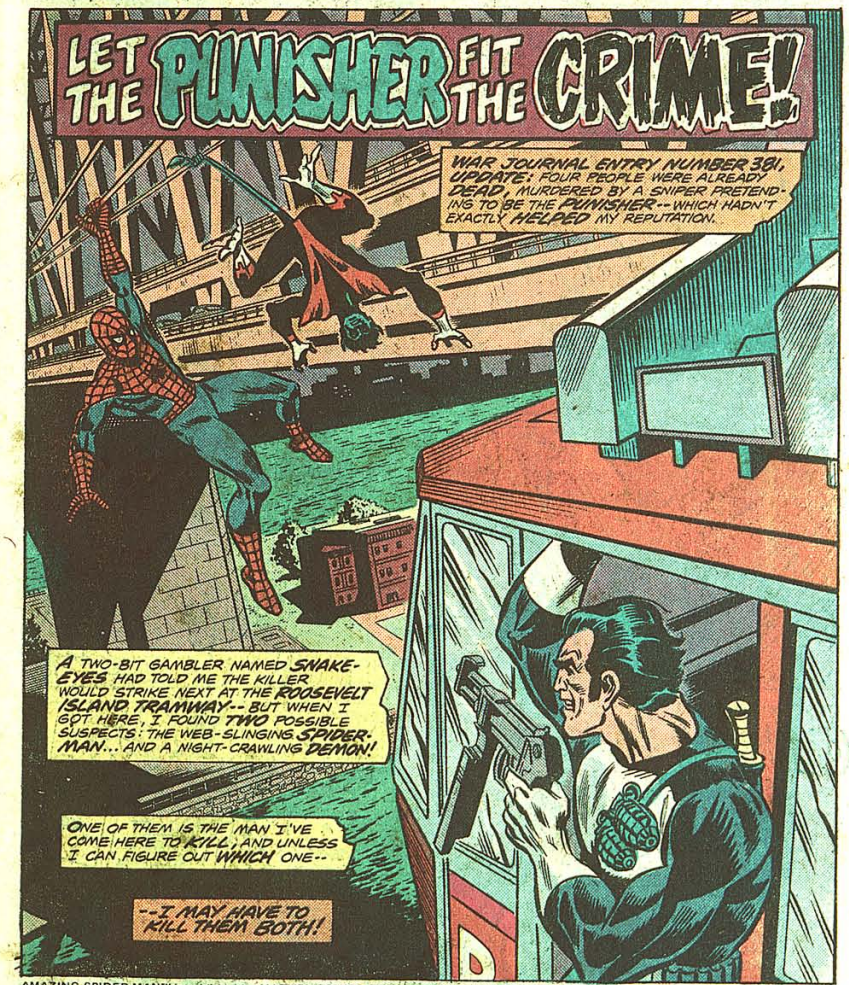


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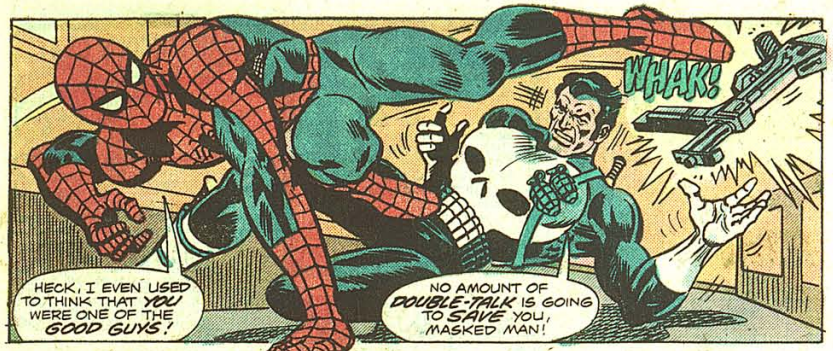

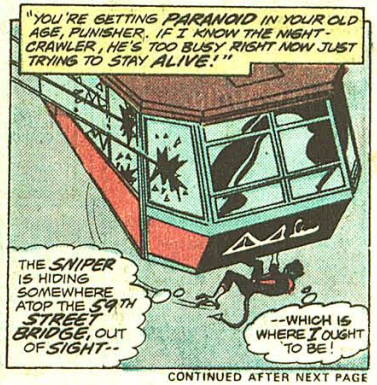


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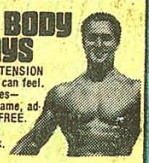

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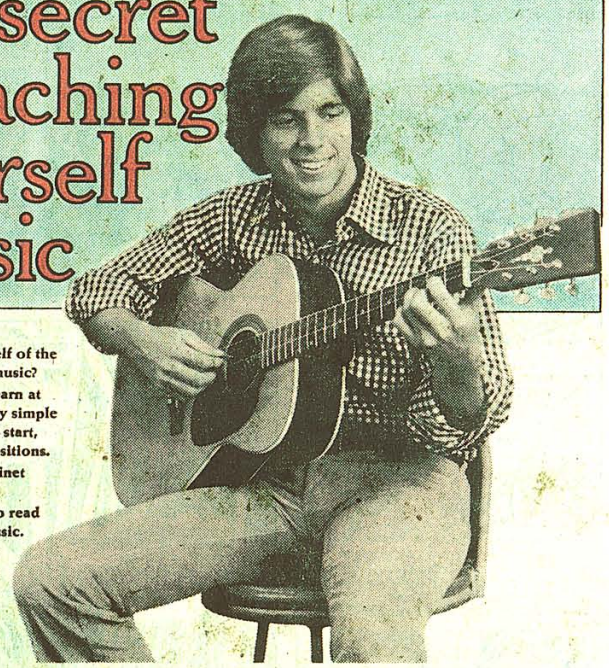

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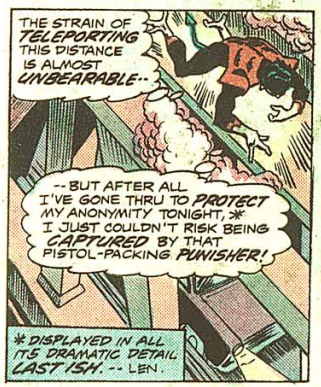

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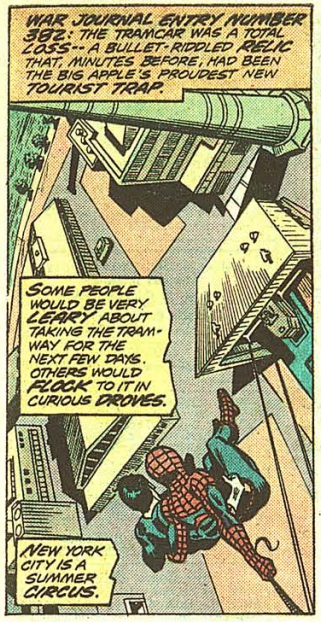

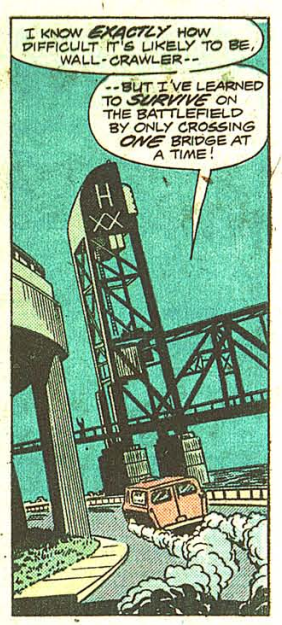


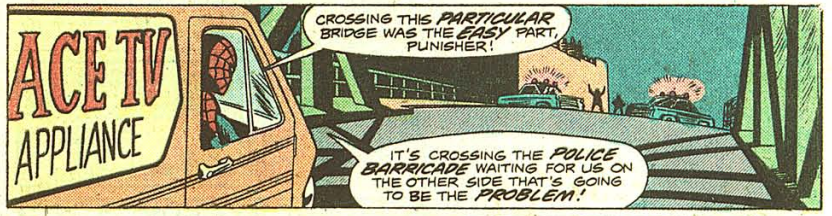


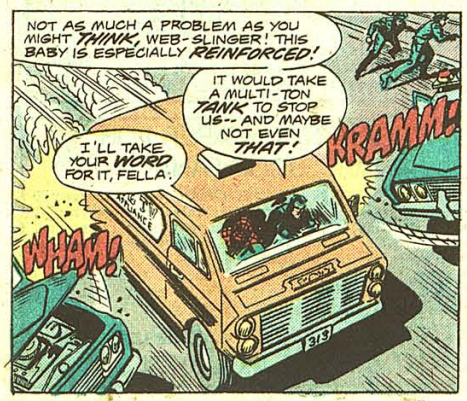

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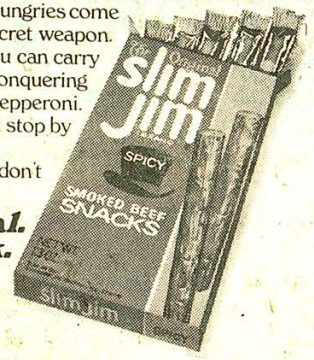


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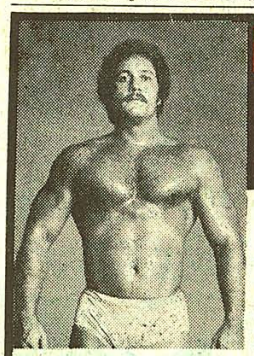

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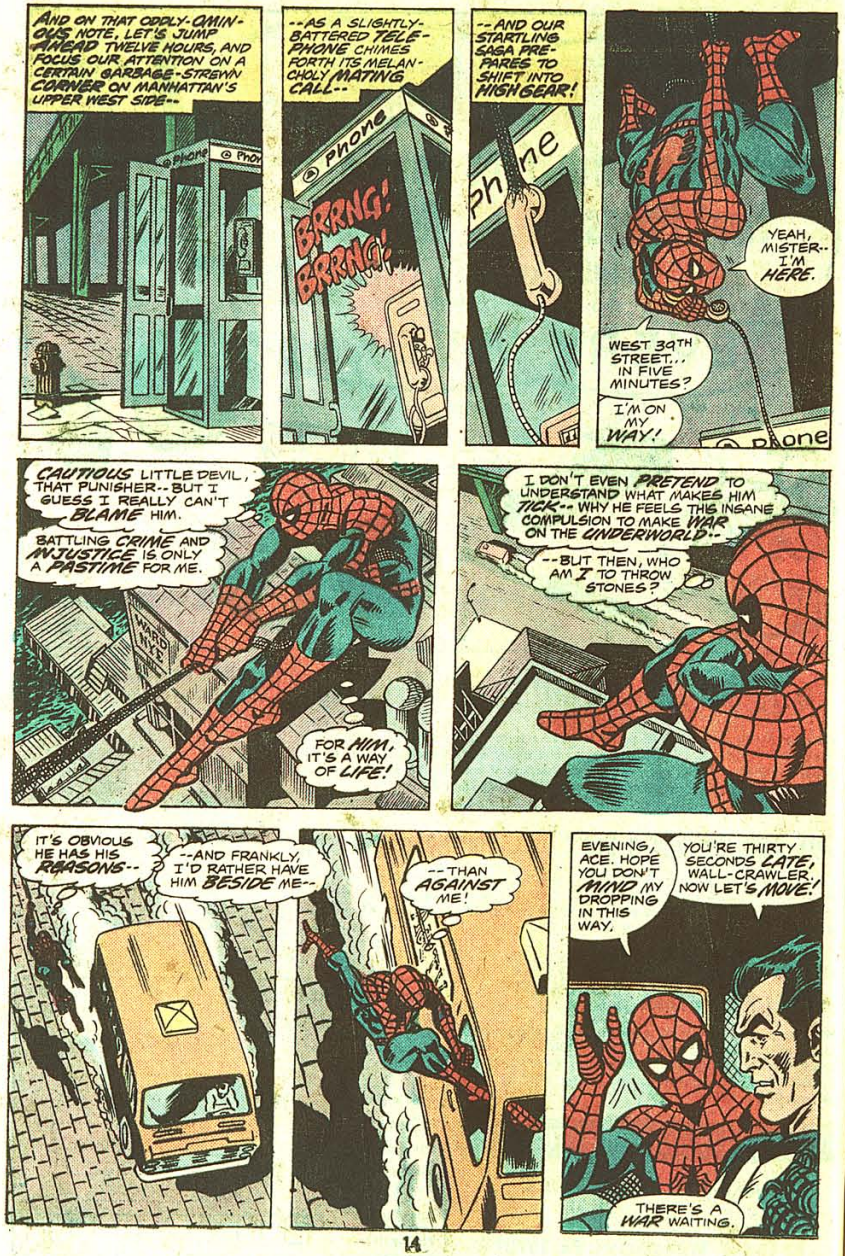




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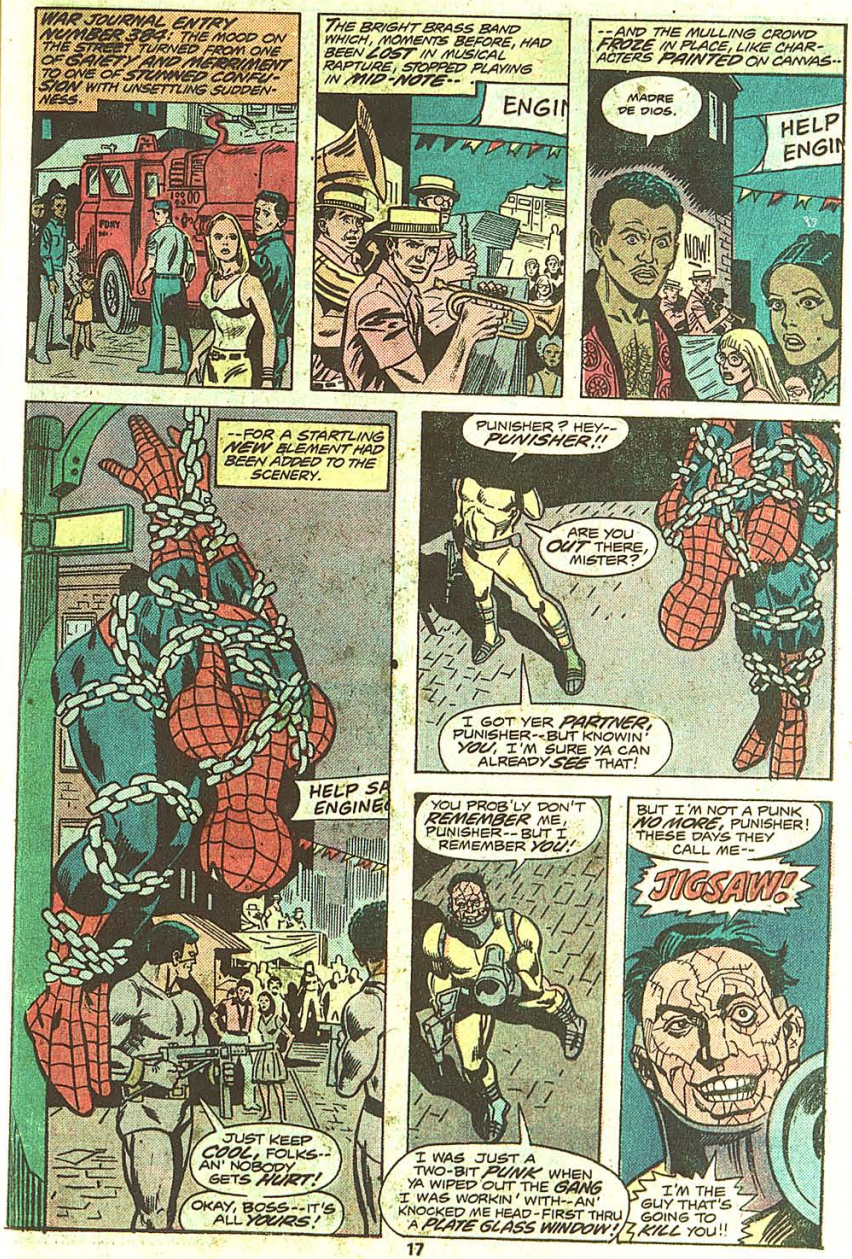




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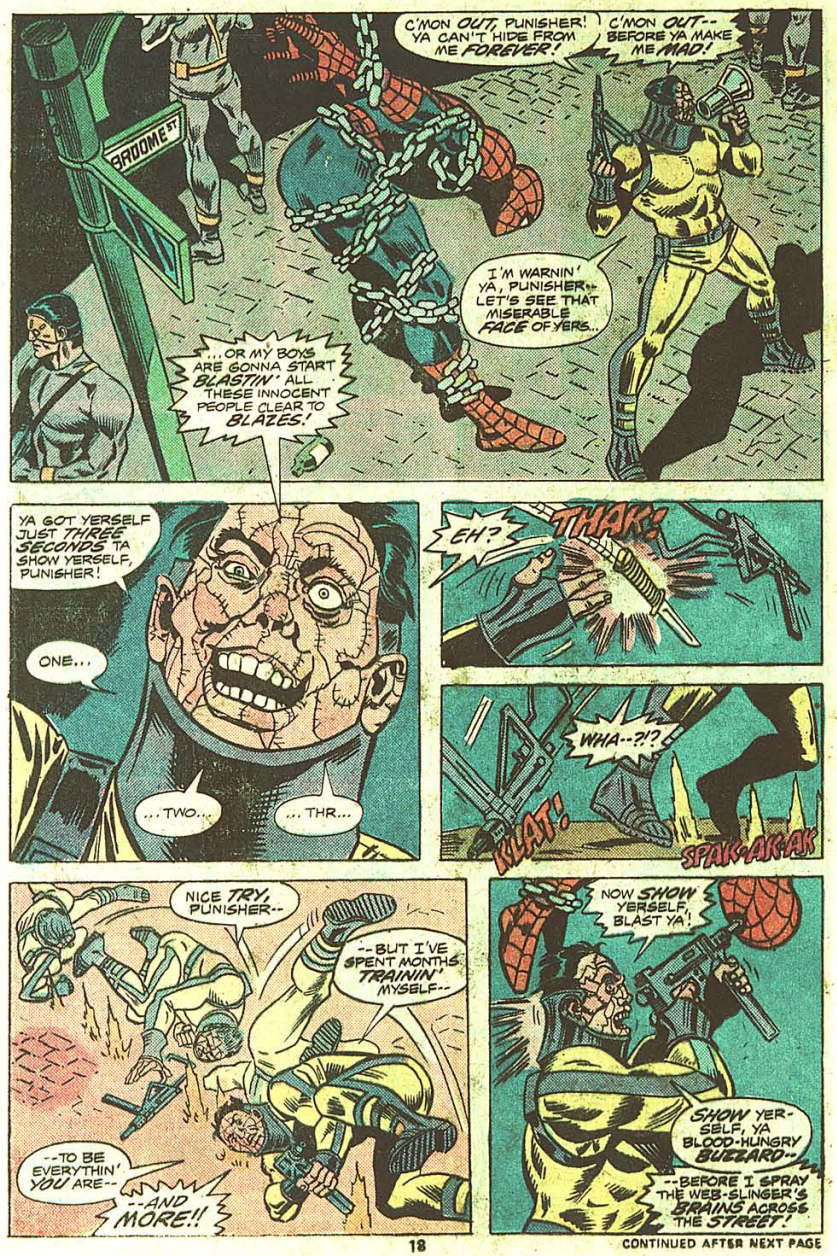




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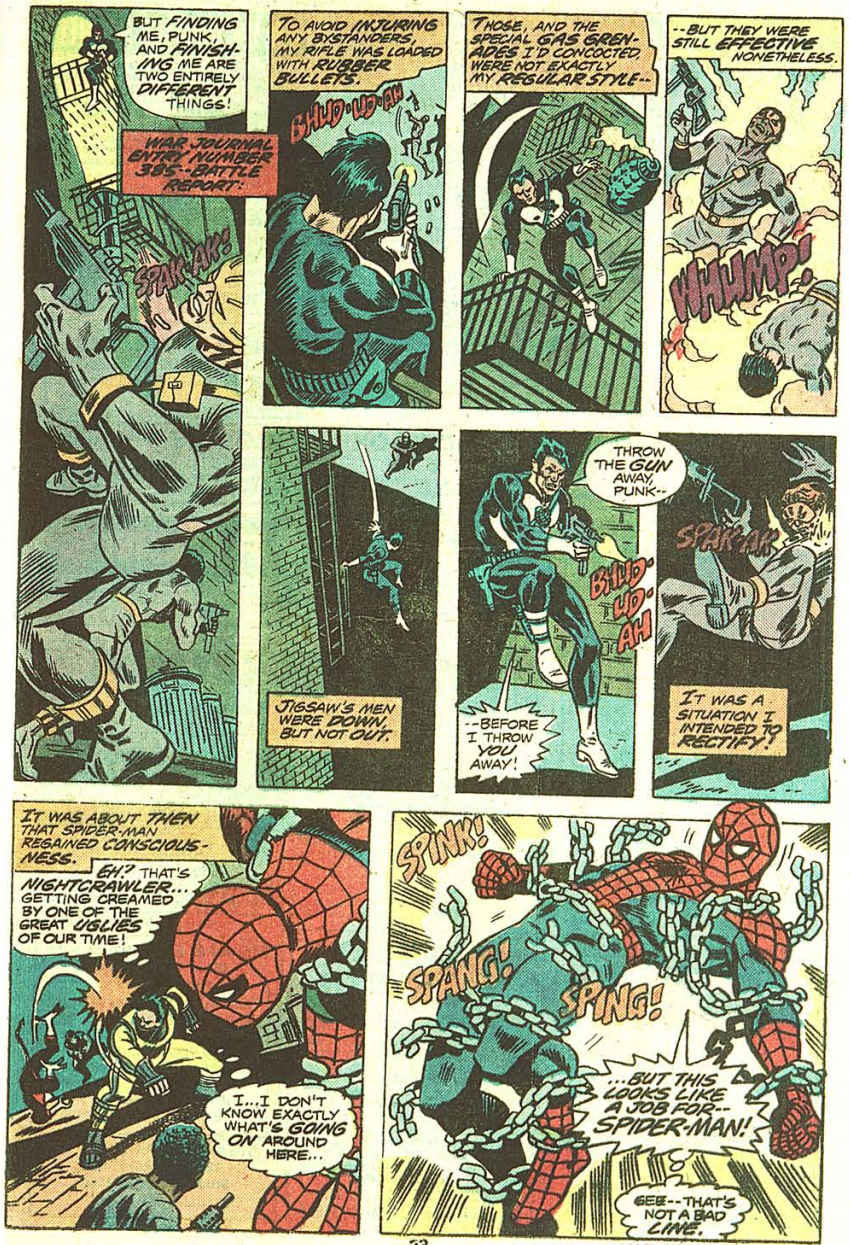




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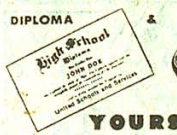

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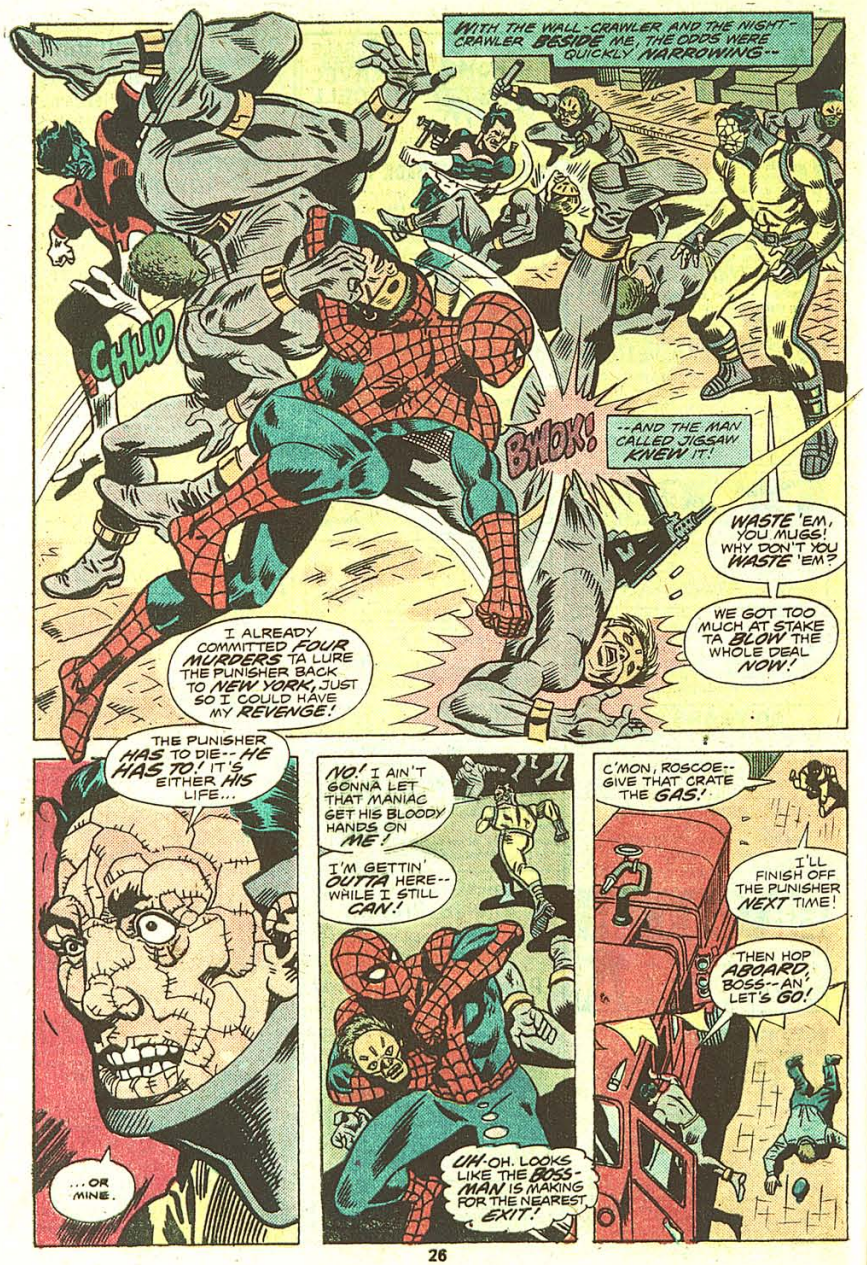




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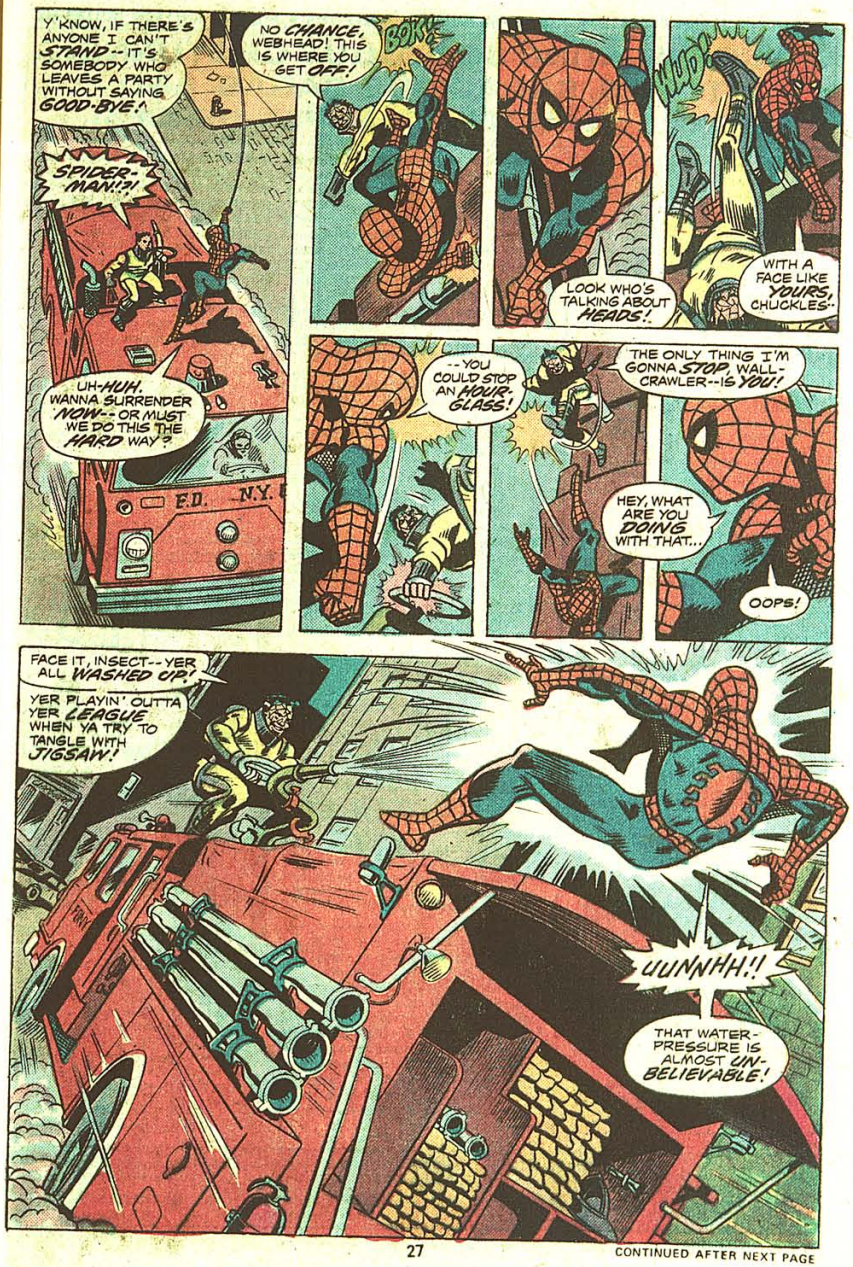




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# A SCINTILLATING SOLILOQUY OF STUNNING STORIES, SAGACIOUS SAGAS, AND SENSES-SHATTERING SUPER-HEROES!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

I never thought it would happen-- but it did! Only a mixed-up outfit like Marvel would have to worry about being *too* successful! Wouldja believe we've been getting all kinds of mail from True Believers everywhere complaining that our mags are selling out too fast-- they seem to be gone by the time Marveldom Assembled can reach the newsstands! In fact, one really serious new problem is the hoarders who buy all the copies of a new issue as soon as it appears, intending to hold onto the copies and sell them later at a big profit. Some of the letters we receive even blame us for this unfair practice-- but honest, gang, Marvel has nothing to do with it. We have absolutely no way of controlling what happens to our books as soon as they leave the printing plant. In fact, if we want to pick up a few extra copies of THE ETERNALS, or HOWARD THE DUCK, or any other Marvel masterworks, we have as much trouble getting them as you do! The only way to beat the game is to subscribe-- that way you're sure of getting every issue you want, and getting it on time, at the right price, and now mailed crisp and flat to keep 'em neat among your Rembrandts and Picassos. But now-- on to heavier stuff. You've probably heard about the great new comicbook indexes being produced by our ol' Canadian cavorter, George Olshevsky. But unless you've seen 'em for yourself, you can't possibly imagine how really impressive they are. The first one is the Marvel Comics Index of The Amazing Spider-Man, showing every cover printed from issue #1 right up to #151, plus the Giant-Size and Special Issues as well. It tells who wrote, drew, edited, and lettered every story as well as listing the main villain and any other cogent info. Printed on heavy, expensive paper stock with a magnificent cover, this first Index ish sells for $3.95 and is available at most stores that specialize in comicbooks; or write to G&T Enterprises Ltd., P.O. Box 127, Station "T", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6B 329 for full details. Try to remember "Generous George" Olshevsky, 'cause he and I are working on a brand new project that'll tingle your toenails when you hear about it! But we're keeping it under our beanies for a few more months-- after all, you're only human; how much wonderment can you bear in one sweet-talkin' Soapbox?!! So, till I collar you again next ish, nous verrons ce que nous verrons!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Let's start with something long overdue, namely a warm welcome aboard to hitherto unheralded newcomers to the Bullpen. So say hello to "Kuddly KAREN" DOUGHERTY, demon letterer, "'Nuff Said NELSON" YOMTOV, past master at pasting up the titles, balloons, and art we're often rearranging on our mixed-up pages, and "Wandering WARREN" STOROB, who makes the many photostatic copies required of those self-same pages for the production of our books. Another hi to "Lilting LINDA" TAXEL, new assistant to Vice President SOL BRODSKY, and to "Dandy MICHAEL" SANDY, who's stepping in to keep things moving in our Coloring Department. Nice folks all, and worthy additions to the collective craziness that's Merry Marvel.

ITEM! Like previous summer months, August is TREASURY EDITION time. What can we lay on you after last month's awesome, all-original adaptation of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (A few copies of which may still be available for the slowpokes among you, if you stop hesitating and start hurrying to your local magazine rack)? Well, one of our best, actually. It's a return engagement with the FANTASTIC FOUR, and this time around we focus on their most famous confrontations with such fearsome foes as DR. DOOM, SUB-MARINER, and the FRIGHTFUL FOUR. The selections span a decade of "the world's greatest comic magazine" and offer proof-- as if it's really needed-- why that particular cover blurb is anything but hyperbole. And wait till you see all that history-making artwork in the larger, clearer, eye-popping size! You may just be as proud to own this Treasury as we are to produce it.

ITEM! Speaking of pride, members of the Bullpen softball team have been parading the halls with puffed out chests and cheshire cat grins after a hard earned 7 to 5 triumph over Franklin Watts in our publishers league. Coming on top of a 15 to 14 squeaker with a local area comics fan team, our demons of the diamonds' expectations for the future have never been higher. (Okay, people, now will you get out of the cheering section and back to the drawing board?)

ITEM! One other sports note before we head for the showers. FANTASTIC FOUR and AVENGERS inker extraordinaire, JOE SINNOTT tells us that in the Saugerties NY Athletic Association's teen basketball league, his son MARK's team not only won the championship, but Mark was voted the league's most valuable player as well. Congratulations to you and your teammates, Mark! Naturally, everyone will probably credit such terrific success to sheer talent, ability, and hard work, but *we'd* like to think that those Marvel t-shirts Mark and company have been sporting had something to do with it!

ITEM! Bruce Lee fans are in for a treat this month. "Joyful JOHN" WARNER and "Reliable RALPH" MACCHIO of our black and white department have come up with a special issue of DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU that gives you cover-to-cover coverage of the master martial artist. Highlighting the book will be a comic art adaptation of Lee's life. Written by John, drawn by JOE STATON, and inked by THE TRIBE, this 36 page extravaganza represents an unusual departure in use of the graphic story and could well become a comics milestone. Whether you're into movies, martial arts, or Marvel masterworks, this one is worth your while.

ITEM! If you find yourself huffing and puffing a bit after running for some of the titles we've been touting, could be you're in need of one of our special projects being done in collaboration with Simon and Schuster (The book publishing folks who, along with a man named STAN, brought you ORIGINS OF MARVEL and SON OF ORIGINS). It's called THE MIGHTY MARVEL STRENGTH AND FITNESS BOOK, and if you look around the page, we should have a picture of it for you.

Exercise books you may have seen before, but never one that makes it so downright much fun. With demonstrators like the Hulk, Spidey, and Silver Surfer (among others) showing you how, it couldn't be any other way. Even J. Jonah Jameson gets into the act (Eat your heart out, Jack LaLanne)! It goes on sale in September, fitness buffs. Look for it in your favorite book store. (Or your second favorite. We don't want to be pushy)

ITEM! Hey, no more items this time out! Catch you next month, same time, same page.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

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JIM SHOOTER Associate Editor
ROGER SLIFER, SCOTT EDELMAN, ROGER STERN Assistant Editors
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HUSH, SIRE! I-I-I MUST NOT SPEAK OF THE UN-NAMED GOD, OR I WILL BE TURNED TO COSMOS-DUST THIS INSTANT.
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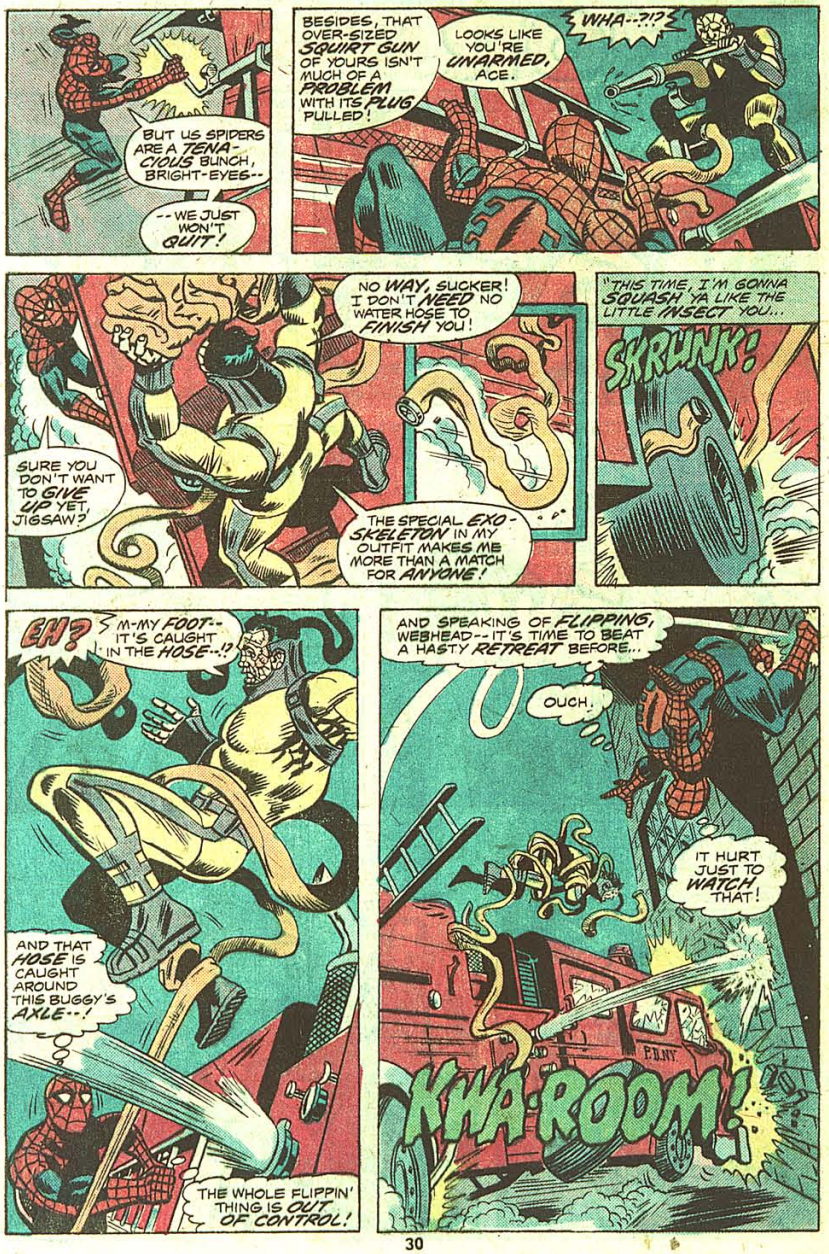




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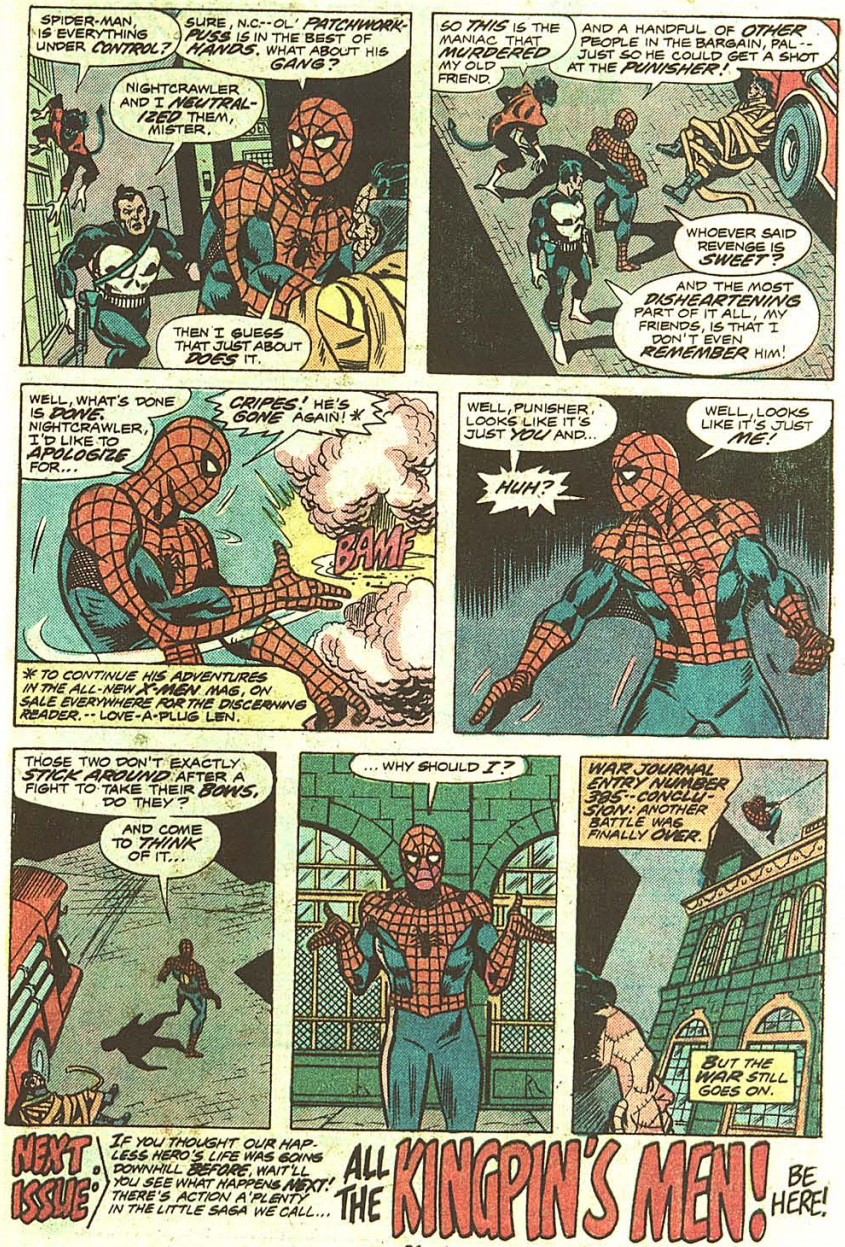




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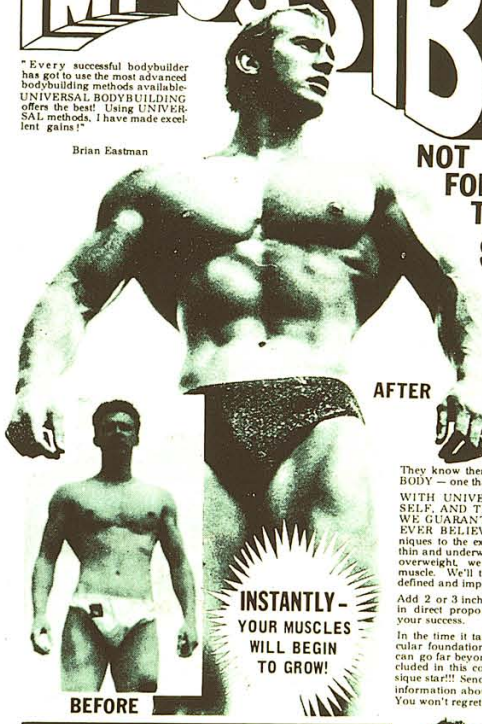


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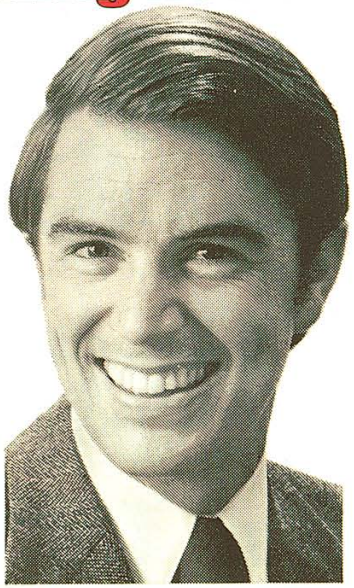

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